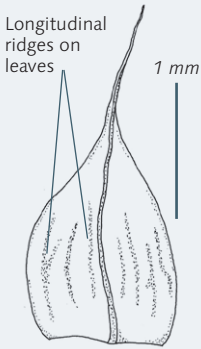
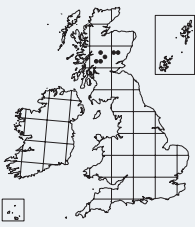


*Ptychodium plicatum**Lescuraea plicata*

Plaited Leskea

**Identification**

The irregularly, pinnately branched shoots are dull yellowish-green or brownish, 5–12 cm long, and form patches. Numerous, minute leaf-like structures occur on the stems between the leaves. The leaves are strongly longitudinally ridged, about 3 mm long, with a well-developed nerve that ends just beneath the tip. Capsules are very rare, and mature in autumn. They are curved like a bow, and held nearly horizontally.

Similar species

Other mosses with leaves that are markedly ridged longitudinally (e.g. some *Brachythecium*, pp. 741–752, and *Homalothecium* species, pp. 738–739) do not occur on calcareous soil in the mountains. *Antitrichia curtipendula* (p. 676) has toothed leaves, and no minute leaf-like structures on its stems. *Lescuraea saxicola* (Smith, p. 741) has much smaller leaves that are not ridged longitudinally, and shoots that are much more slender.

Habitat

This very rare moss of the central Scottish Highlands grows on calcareous rocks and in turf, often where sheltered, for example at the base of crags, or at the foot of boulders in block scree.